



Brownfields 2006 Grant Fact Sheet

Southern University at Shreveport, LA

EPA Brownfields Program

EPA's Brownfields Program empowers states, communities, and other stakeholders in economic development to work together to prevent, assess, safely clean up, and sustainably reuse brownfields. A brownfield site is real property, the expansion, redevelopment, or reuse of which may be complicated by the presence or potential presence of a hazardous substance, pollutant, or contaminant. On January 11, 2002, President George W. Bush signed into law the Small Business Liability Relief and Brownfields Revitalization Act. Under the Brownfields Law, EPA provides financial assistance to eligible applicants through four competitive grant programs: assessment grants, revolving loan fund grants, cleanup grants, and job training grants. The brownfields job training grants provide residents of communities impacted by brownfields with the skills and training needed to effectively gain employment in assessment and cleanup activities associated with brownfield redevelopment and environmental remediation. Additionally, funding support is provided to state and tribal response programs through a separate mechanism.

Community Description

Southern University at Shreveport was selected to receive a job training grant. In recent years, several of the most blighted, mixed-use areas of Shreveport, such as the old Agurs industrial park and Queensborough,



Job Training Grant

\$199,999 □

EPA has selected Southern University at Shreveport for a job training grant. The university plans to train 36 students, place at least 30 graduates in environmental jobs, and track graduates for one year. Southern University will conduct the six-to-eight-week training at several training facilities in the city. Participants will receive HAZWOPER, hazardous material, first responder, asbestos, lead, chemical spill, confined space, innovative technology, and mold worker training. Students will be recruited from disenfranchised, economically disadvantaged communities with high unemployment rates and residents who lack skills. Included among those recruited will be hurricane evacuees seeking job training and placement. The university plans to identify potential employers, host job fairs, and partner with local agencies, such as Queensborough Neighborhood Association, North Shreveport Development Corporation, Biomedical Research Foundation, and Shreveport-Bossier Community Renewal, to assist in job placement.

Contacts

For further information, including specific grant contacts, additional grant information, brownfields news and events, and publications and links, visit the EPA Brownfields web site at: www.epa.gov/brownfields.

EPA Region 6 Brownfields Team

214-665-6752

<http://www.epa.gov/earth1r6/6sf/bfpages/sfbfhome.htm>

Grant Recipient: Southern University at Shreveport, LA
318-674-3471

The cooperative agreement for this grant has not yet been negotiated; therefore, activities described in this fact sheet are subject to change.

have experienced extensive out-migration of businesses. Even before Hurricane Katrina, the local manufacturing sector of Shreveport (population 200,145) was declining, increasing the number of brownfields and slowing the economy. Unemployment increased from 5.3 percent in 2000 to more than 7 percent in 2002. In the inner city, the poverty rate is over 40 percent compared to 18.7 percent citywide, and at least 20 percent of adults in the inner city are unemployed. Shreveport has been in need of environmental technicians to clean up many brownfields related to the oil industry and decline in manufacturing. Hurricane Katrina has increased this demand. A trained local workforce will help reduce employers' labor costs and speed cleanup.